

February 28, 2023

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the Education Committee concerning House Bill No. 6758 / An Act Concerning Certain Roles at the Department of Education.

Dear Members of the Education Committee,

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford, the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford goes on record in support of **HB No. 6758.**

The Jewish Community Relations Council educates and galvanizes the Jewish community on issues of social justice, combats hate, and advocates for public policy consistent with Jewish values. One of the core tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In that vein, our legislative priorities focus on issues such as feeding the hungry, enhancing education, and fostering economic growth.

We respectfully request your support for this crucial legislation. HB6758 would require the Department of Education to hire at least one curriculum coordinator to help implement Holocaust and Genocide, African American, Latino, AAPI and other essential histories that our children should learn about.

This issue of expanding antihate and Holocaust education in Connecticut is one of our policy priorities this year. The various legislative mandates the Connecticut General Assembly has passed the last four years will help our children become the thought leaders of tomorrow. We know that many classrooms around the state are effectively teaching the Holocaust and Genocide, African American and Latino mandates. However, we also know that these are difficult subjects to teach. Now, more than ever, teachers need additional state support to assist them teaching our children effectively. This legislation will do exactly that. Additional staff at the Department of Education will enable curriculum development for teachers and support for educators.

Thank you for your consideration. You are welcome to contact us with any questions by contacting Danielle Moghadam, Director of JCRC, at dmoghadam@jewishhartford.org or 860-727-6152.

SINCERELY,

GARY S. STARR, CHAIR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

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